

**Metropolitan Homelessness Encampment Task Force
Public Comment Session Meeting After**

Tuesday, March 30, 2016
at Metro Social Services
800 2nd Avenue North

Present: Lindsey Krinks, Traci Pekovitch, Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Alex Smith, Charlie Strobel, Will Connelly, Phil Duke, Jennifer Williams, Erik Cole

Staff Present: Judy Tackett, Karri Simpson

Public: Denis Huey, Anne Havard, Kate Waide, Trip Hunt, Garrett Smothers, Tracy Harris, Haley S., Cayla Wilson, Katie Ladefoged, Robbie Kelley

Meeting started at 9:01 a.m.

Metro 3 was unable to make it because they are filming the budget events; they attempt to be present at the next meeting, but can't attend the one after.

Follow up on the list of vacant properties within Metro was done, only to find that this list doesn't currently exist.

Approval of Minutes from March 16th

The minutes from March 16th were approved.

Review of Unauthorized Encampment Recommendations

A the previous meeting both Lindsey Krinks and Traci Pekovitch volunteered to come up with an alternative draft statement regarding unauthorized encampments allowing new individuals. Discussion ensued around capacity and combining the two draft statements together.

All agreed on the following statement being added to the recommendation on unauthorized encampments:

“There is a clear understanding that the campsite needs to be getting smaller, not larger, and that residents need to be moving out not moving in. All parties agree that in the event new campers arrive onsite they will be introduced to a supportive services agency, outreach team or hot, in order to identify barriers, establish goals, and minimize the length of stay in the camp for the purpose of moving the individual toward permanent housing options. It will be up to the property owners' discretion as to what residents can be on the property.”

Review of Homework and Discussion

Lindsey Krinks, Traci Pekovitch, and Phil Duke all submitted grids with ideas, per the homework last week.

Discussion included:

- Benchmarks/goal measurements are needed for an authorized encampment.
- Defining affordable housing per this population is needed, as affordable housing is a buzzword the encompasses many income levels.
- Looking at limited “lifespans” of an authorized encampment at a certain site, so that more community buy-in could be garnered.
- How encampments on religious land could be structured.

- Evaluating authorized encampment programs as is done with other homeless service providers within the CoC and Nashville.
- Looking at the governance of authorized encampments.
- Finding a building to offer interim housing instead of an authorized outdoor encampment
 - o In relation to this topic, Anne Havard, speaking on behalf of Erik Cole, stated that efforts are already being made and that they should work to avoid duplication. She planned to connect with Phil Duke after the meeting adjourned.

Next steps:

- Come up with best practice models.
- Coming up with a recommendation around governance structure.

Task force members stated that this task force isn't clear on their goals and what they want to create. All agreed that good discussion occurred at this meeting but not any progress; they must come back to the objective on the board and focusing on the authorized encampments. The original goal of this group was to look at authorized and unauthorized encampments and the task force agreed at the last meeting that they would focus on authorized encampments on religious or non-religious land. This point was reiterated in this meeting.

Public Comment:

Caleb Pickering: Prior to moving into Green Street individuals must state a goal they want to work on, which can be different for everyone. Establishing a goal creates accountability and allows them to work together on something. If someone can't establish a goal for themselves it indicates they are happy where they are at. Insurance was a hurdle when establishing the encampment at Green Street. If there is a model where the government/city is sanctioning authorize encampment then you might have more buy in from churches to do it on their property. In regards to finding a building for interim housing, that is just creating another Mission and there needs to be another alternative to that model.

Katie Ladefoged: She is with the DAs office and is part of a committee which is working to address the needs of individuals when Ft. Negley closes. She is looking for partners to help provide storage for individual's items when they must leave on April 15th. She also stated they are working to not prosecute people when Ft. Negley closes, however if people won't leave they can't stop the police from arresting them.

Robbi Kelley: He wants to know what kind of land they are referring to in regards to finding a place for an authorized encampment. Anything was the answer. He stated that he knows of vacant land that should be looked at.

Homework:

Judy Tackett will type up and email out Charlie Strobel's governance structure grid that was drawn up during the meeting, along with other grids completed by task force members as homework.

The meeting concluded at 10:35 a.m.

The next Encampment Task Force Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13, at 9 a.m. at Metro Social Services, 800 2nd Avenue North.